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66-2623

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense

SUBJECT : Department of Defense Data Required
for Study on the Strength, Capabilities
and Strategic Intentions of the Vietnamese
Communists

1. You will recall that at our luncheon meeting on 4 May, Secretary McNamara requested Admiral Raborn to initiate a CIA study to analyze the will of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese to continue with the war in South Vietnam. We have a large task force currently engaged in research on this problem. In large measure the identification of probable pressure points influencing Communist attitudes depends on the courses of action to be taken by US, GVN, and allied forces. I appreciate the sensitivity of much of the military planning data related to projected US courses of action. In order to do the best job possible, however, I would appreciate your making some of these data available to us.

2. The specific data we require are as follows:

a. The planned levels of U. S., allied and GVN force commitments in South Vietnam, as of the end of 1966 and as of 30 June 1967:

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- (1) by branch of service
- (2) by combat and combat support units
- (3) by geographic disposition within South Vietnam

b. It would be desirable if these data could be furnished as a monthly or quarterly schedule showing the rate at which the build-up of U. S., allied and GVN forces will be implemented.

c. The data for U. S. Air Forces should include those stationed in both South Vietnam and Thailand, and B-52 forces.

d. Data on the programmed build-up of U. S. and GVN air forces and the planned levels of combat strike and support sorties by monthly rate of build-up through June 1967. These data should also indicate the division of effort by:

- (1) ground support sorties in South Vietnam
- (2) air operations in Laos
- (3) air operations in North Vietnam--preferably divided by sorties against fixed targets (LOC and other) and armed reconnaissance against lines of communication.

e. Statistical tables showing U. S., allied and GVN casualties (killed and wounded)--1963 to date--and anticipated levels through June 1967.

3. It would be desirable if you would designate a member of your staff authorized to release additional data which may become necessary as our research proceeds.

4. If there are specific questions about the servicing of these requirements, the CIA point of contact will be

Richard Helms
Deputy Director

CONCUR:

R. J. SMITH

Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

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